

C<sup>2</sup> Claim 22 (Amended) A method according to claim 20 wherein the target item is a gene.

Please add new claims 37 through 45 as follows:

C<sup>3</sup> Claim 37 (New) A computer database system for organizing, associating and retrieving information where characteristics regarding entities can be inferred from the characteristics of similar entities, having at least two sets of information located on one or more databases comprising a first and a second collection of information, wherein the first collection of information is joined with the second collection of information to create a set of joined items, wherein the items are grouped together based on a plurality of properties.

Claim 38 (New) The system of claim 37 wherein the information is joined by a chemical similarity join.

Claim 39 (New) The system of claim 38 wherein one or more properties of the plurality of properties is selected from the group consisting of chemical structure, synthesis pathway, binding data, biological activity, structure-activity relationship information, molecular weight, partition coefficient, electric charge, size, efficacy, toxicology, manufacturer, price, and availability.

Claim 40 (New) The system of claim 37 wherein the resultant joined items are reported to a user of the computer program.

Claim 41 (New) The system of claim 40 wherein the user interacts with the joined items via remote communication link.

Claim 42 (New) The system of claim 41 wherein the remote communication link is the Internet.

Claim 43 (New) The system of claim 37 wherein the entities are biological compounds.

Claim 44 (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the biological compounds are proteins.

Claim 45 (New) The system of claim 37 wherein the entities are genes.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."